

**Switzerland's comments on draft action plan**  
**Second preparatory meeting to the Maputo RC**  
**Geneva, 10 April**

Muito obrigado, Senhor president-deisgnado e bem-vindo a Genebra,

A successful Review Conference is in large part dependent on a thorough preparation, and I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mozambique, and specially of your team here in Geneva under the strong leadership of Ambassador Pedro Commissário, for its relentless efforts to take the preparatory process of the Maputo Review Conference forward as well as for the transparent manner in which this work is conducted. This bodes well for our meeting in Maputo, and I can assure you of the continuing full support of my delegation in the fulfilment of your task.

In this context, I am pleased to announce that Switzerland will be able to make a significant financial contribution (CHF 50'000) in support of the organization of the Review Conference.

Mr. President,

Your intensive efforts are clearly reflected in the documents you have circulated in anticipation of this second preparatory meeting. This certainly applies to the draft Maputo action plan, which has now been consolidated in many ways.

We certainly welcome the general direction taken by the draft text and the fact that the action plan covers the key constituent parts of the convention in a balanced manner. We also appreciate that the action plan charts an ambitious way forward and that many of the actions identified are of an operational nature, including where appropriate clear timeline, and at the same time with 30 actions remains acceptable in terms of length with 30 actions.

As we move towards Maputo, it will be important to maintain this general direction and level of ambition, and at the same time further fine-tune the text where necessary and applicable.

Concerning the specific sections of the action plan, we would at this stage only make the following comments:

- Concerning the first paragraph of the **introductory chapeau**, we would see value in stressing the issue of universalisation as a key element moving forward, stressing thereby the obligations of the States Parties on the one hand and the need for further universalisation of the convention and the general norms on the other. Also, we will have to make sure that this segment is fully coherent with the political declaration. On victim assistance, this paragraph implies that there should be no new victims as of Maputo whereas the political declaration speaks of no new victims in 2025. Also, it may be important to stress not only that time bound obligations should be completed by 2025 but if possible as early as feasible.
- We welcome the strong section on **universalisation**, which remains a crucial challenge for the convention. Concerning action 4, we believe that there could be potential value in consolidating and streamline it with action 22 in the assistance and co-operation section as already mentioned by others. We would see value in introducing in any case

the possibility of derogation from the stated principles in case of urgent humanitarian needs or other exceptional circumstances.

- On **mine clearance**, we believe that there would be value in stressing in this section the importance of reporting for the implementation of commitments in this domain. The provision of detailed information in both formal and informal ways, which will provide for a dynamic process forward is very important. This would also allow the kind of feedback processes between States Parties, donors and recipients, implementers as well as practitioners and policy makers, which we are all looking for to advance the aims of the convention. On this reporting issue, we understand the deadline of 30 April 2015 mentioned in Action #7 as a clear reference to report through the established reporting mechanism.
- Regarding **victim assistance**, we are pleased with the direction that this section is taking, and would simply like to stress that we will need to establish the necessary structure to accompany the realisation of these ambitious actions. We believe that the reporting called for by actions in this section to be of great value and also see here a clear suggestion to make use of existing reporting mechanisms.
- Turning to the question of **cooperation and assistance**, we see value in the idea of partnership for completion as spelled out in paragraph 21 and believe that it could become an important tool in taking the implementation of the convention forward. As we are in the process of developing this idea, we would suggest not being too prescriptive because the situation of the specific contexts should be taken into account and should leave room for the States Parties involved. A partnership could be of a political, technical, financial or in-kind nature but will not necessarily includes all these dimensions at once. Potentially, we would suggest add the words *such as* before articulating.
- **Transparency and exchange of information** are certainly key elements in taking forward the implementation of the convention and we welcome the actions identified. We would also see value in stressing in this section the importance of the transmission of information of a formal nature but also of an informal character, the latter being closely linked to the cooperative nature of the convention.
- Finally, **regarding compliance**, the actions identified are certainly of great significance for the convention and its future, and we would deem important that they remain strong and ambitious.

Mr. President,

Let me emphasise that Switzerland sees the obligations of the Convention as mutually complementary and interdependent. We can achieve our goal of a mine free world and of no new victims best if all obligations are equally fulfilled by the States Parties. In this regard, Mr. President, let me support the call made earlier today by others to better integrate civil society and other actors in the action given the key role they have played and are playing in the implementation of the convention.

Let me conclude by expressing my conviction that with the present draft action plan, we have a solid basis to work on and that we will have a very strong action plan to adopt in Maputo.

